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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7062

BILL NUMBER: HB 1221

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 4, 2009

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Voter Assistance.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Bartlett

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: *Office of Voter Assistance:* The bill establishes in the Election Division (ED) the Office of Voter Assistance (OOVA) headed by a director appointed by the Election Commission (EC). The bill requires the OOVA to undertake activities to reduce impediments to voting and counting votes cast, including conducting statewide audits, establishing an advisory commission, recommending changes in election law or practices, providing educational materials, and maintaining a voter hotline and web site.

County-Option Voter Advocate: The bill allows a county election board to appoint a local voter advocate to assist voters, maintain a local voter hotline, and report to the office after each election concerning complaints received, provisional ballots cast, counted, and not counted, sustained ballot challenges, voter registration and proof of identification problems, and other impediments to voting or counting votes cast.

Effective Date: July 1, 2009.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Office of Voter Assistance:* This provision would increase state expenditures by an estimated \$159,000 in FY 2010 and \$156,000 in FY 2011. The ED would need additional staff to accomplish the new directives specified in this bill.

The funds and resources required above could be supplied through a variety of sources, including the following: (1) existing staff and resources not currently being used to capacity; (2) existing staff and resources currently being used in another program; (3) authorized, but vacant, staff positions, including those positions that would need to be reclassified; (4) funds that, otherwise, would be reverted; or (5) new appropriations. Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill will depend upon legislative and administrative actions.

The following table provides estimates on the costs to establish the OOVA.

Costs Estimates of OOVA Establishment.		
Item	FY 2010 Estimated Cost	FY 2011 Estimated Cost
Director of OOVA	\$42,600	\$44,300
Two staff members*	\$59,100	\$61,500
Fringe and Indirect Staff Costs	\$55,500	\$48,300
Voter Education Materials	\$1,000	\$1,000
Telephone Hotline	\$839	\$839
TOTAL**	\$159,039	\$155,939
*The bill does not specify the number of staff members for the OOVA. **Cost of statewide audit and establishment of advisory commission is unknown and not included in total.		

Background- The Indiana Election Division reverted \$23,000 to the General Fund at the end of FY 2008. The Election Commission reverted approximately \$80,300 to the General Fund at the end of FY 2008.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *County-Option Voter Advocate:* This provision would have an unknown increase to local expenditures. The impact would depend on county action.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Indiana Election Division, Indiana Election Commission

Local Agencies Affected: Counties.

Information Sources: Indiana State Budget Agency: *General and Rainy Day Fund Summaries, June 30, 2008.*

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